

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /163 W

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R 181655Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2598

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USUN NEW YORK 590

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3370

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR MO SS IR PK IN CH

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION PARTICIPATION IN GOM SAHARAN CAMPAIGN

REFERENCE: RABAT 3341

1. ISTIQLAL AND UNFP LEADERS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN KING'S CAMPAIGN TO INFORM NATIONS OF WORLD ABOUT MOROCCAN POSITION ON SAHARA. PARTICIPATION APPARENTLY DECIDED AT JULY 17 MEETING OF NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL (REFTEL) A BODY WHICH WE UNDERSTAND EXISTED ON PAPER BUT HAD NEVER MET. UNFP LEADER BOUABID TOLD EMBOFF JULY 17 THAT HE EXPECTED AS PART OF GOM CAMPAIGN TO LEAVE EARLY NEXT WEEK FOR TOUR INCLUDING IRAN, PAKISTAN, INDIA, AND COMMUNIST CHINA. BOUABID INDICATED THAT ISTIQLAL LEADER BOUCETTA WOULD BE MAKING SIMILAR TOUR. AS WELL AS PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER LEADING PERSONALITIES OF COUNTRY.

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2. COMMENT: USE OF OPPOSITION LEADERS TO ARGUE GOM'S SAHARA CASE IS SKILLFUL POLITICAL MOVE ON KING'S PART IN THAT IT IDENTIFIES PARTIES WITH PALACE IN PUBLIC MIND. ISTIQLAL, WHICH ALREADY SO IDENTIFIED TO CONSIDERABLE DEGREE, WAS NO DOUBT COMPELLED BY ITS TOUGH ATTITUDE ON SAHARA TO LEND SUCH SUPPORT. UNFP, HOWEVER, HAS NOT BEEN SO VOCIFEROUS ON SAHARA, AND BOUABID'S ACTIVE SUPPORT OF ANY PALACE POLICY IS MAJOR CHANGE. DIALOGUE BETWEEN BOUABID AND PALACE HAS GROWN SINCE BEGINNING OF YEAR, BUT DISCUSSIONS ALWAYS CENTERED ON ISSUES OF DIRECT INTEREST TO UNFP, SUCH AS RELEASE OF PRISONERS AND POSSIBLE RENEWAL OF POLITICAL PROCESSES. BOUABID SEEMED SOMEWHAT SHEEPISH ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN CAMPAIGN BUT APPARENTLY SAW NO ALTERNATIVE TO DOING SO.

3. UNFP'S CASABLANCA FACTION SEEMS TO BE ODD-MAN OUT. ABDULLAH IBRAHIM WAS NOT INVITED TO PALACE FOR MEETING OF NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL AND HIS GROUP'S POSITION ON SAHARA, AS EXPRESSED IN ITS NEWSPAPER, NOT AS ENTHUSIASTIC AS THAT OF OTHER GROUPS.
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